

REMARKS

Claims 8-20 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 21-31 have been added and therefore are pending in this application.

The Office Action mailed March 17, 2008 made a restriction requirement between the following groups:

Group I – claims 8-17 directed to polypeptides;

Group II – claims 18 and 19 directed to polynucleotides; and

Group III – claim 20 directed to methods of producing cheese.

The Office stated that the three groups do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because the claimed technical feature is disclosed in Accession O59952. This is respectfully traversed.

Accession O59952 discloses a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1. However, Accession O59952 does not disclose polypeptides comprising one or more of the following amino acids at a position corresponding to SEQ ID NO: 1: D62Q/E/F/W/V/P/L/G; V60R/S/K; S85Y/T; G91R/E; R125K; V203T; V228A; T231R; N233R; L259R/V/P; a deletion D266*; and/or L269A.

Applicant, therefore, respectfully submits that the restriction requirement is improper. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement.

In order to be fully responsive, Applicants hereby elect the invention of Group I. Claims 21-30 read on the elected invention. Applicants hereby reserve the right to file divisional applications directed to the nonelected subject matter.

The Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if there are any questions concerning this response or application.

Respectfully submitted,

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/Elias Lambiris, Reg. # 33728/
Elias J. Lambiris, Reg. No. 33,728
Novozymes North America, Inc.
500 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1600
New York, NY 10110
(212) 840-0097